

# 1 Interview Summaries

## 1.1 US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service

Interview Type	Telephone, Federal
Interview Location	
Interview Date	December 13, 2001
Summary Date	December 17, 2001
Interviewer	CDM / Michelle Thaler ( <a href="mailto:thalerma@cdm.com">thalerma@cdm.com</a> )
Interviewed:	Ray Voyer 207-990-9100 x 3

Staff Size (approx)

Budget (approx)

URL: <http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/NRIrlse.html>

### 1.1.1 Overview

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with Iowa State University, conducts the National Resources Inventory every five years. This inventory covers non-federal land in the United States and captures data from 800,000 statistically selected locations on land cover, land use, soil erosion, prime farmland soils, wetlands, habitat diversity, selected conservation practices, and other natural resource information. The information is statistically reliable for national, statewide, and multi-county use.

The majority of the work done by USDA NRCS staff is completed in-house on USDA projects. USDA uses data from many Maine state agencies including OGIS, Department of Marine Resources, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection as well as federal agencies such as the Fish and Wildlife Service, the EPA, USGS and the National Park Service. The USDA also gets watershed data from Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick.

### 1.1.2 GIS Initiatives

#### 1.1.2.1 Data used from Maine OGIS and other state departments

##### Format

- ESRI software format, either coverages or shapefiles
- UTM Meters NAD83

##### Exchange Methods

- OGIS data is either downloaded from the internet or transferred via CDROM

##### Data Layers

- Most data layers taken from OGIS web site including 24K Topo, Roads, Streams, DRGs and DOQs.

#### **Issues**

- USDA is developing watershed data. As they use the data they sometimes find data requires updates. There is a need for a process to update OGIS data.
- There is also a need to document data updates. Ray talked a lot about the feature level metadata that Kate King is developing. This metadata is about data changes.
- Watershed boundaries need to be standardized

#### **1.1.2.2 Data given to Maine**

- USDA would like to see a process developed by which they can submit changes and updates to OGIS.

#### **1.1.3 Other Relevant Issues**

- USDA would like to see a formal process in place for updating data and for communicating when data changes are made.